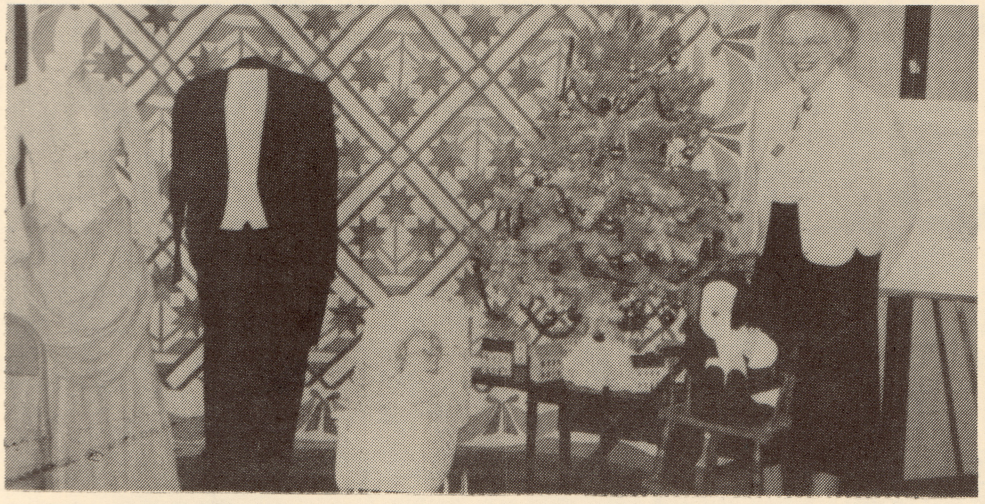
WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 JANUARY 1992

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS



Bets (Olive) Hansen, gift shop chairman, poses with props which lent holiday and historic ambience to our temporary gift shop space donated by Kerrytown in December.

WCHS LOOKS FORWARD TO OPENING MUSEUM IN 1992 BUT MORE FUNDS NECESSARY TO OPERATE FACILITY

I hope all of you have recovered from the holidays and are ready to take on 1992, which will be the year the Washtenaw County Historical Society moves into its new headquarters, the **Museum on Main Street** — finally!!

Greetings and welcome to our new and renewing members! You will receive our newsletter, ***Washtenaw Impressions,*** along with notices of general meetings held at 2:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, September through April (this year Easter will move the April meeting to the 26th of April).

Last year we enjoyed our mid-May Annual Meeting and pot luck at the Macon Creek Mill about 20 miles southwest of Ann Arbor and, this year, we will return there for our Annual Meeting and see how the work of restoring the mill race has progressed.

As of January 2nd, 355 persons/couples/groups have returned mem-

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MANY GOOD FRIENDS BRING MUSEUM PROJECT A LONG WAY SINCE 1989 PHONE CALL SET IT IN MOTION

The Holiday Season just past is always a good time to reflect on the year's events. When I start thinking about the many people who have been involved in bringing the Museum to life, I realize how lucky WCHS is to have so many good friends.

Beginning with the University of Michigan, who donated the house to us, (and then was patient while we got plans together to move it), the list of those who have helped is long.

Without the co-operation of the City, especially the Department of Parks and Recreation and City Council, who arranged for us to re-locate the house on Main Street, we would not have been even able to begin.

Residents of the area, particularly the North Central Property Owner's Association, were very supportive of our plans early on and worked to make them a reality.

Other City departments--Building, Planning, Engineering, and Utilities--gave valuable assistance.

The *Ann Arbor News*, local historical societies in the county, public utilities--MichCon, Michigan Bell, and Detroit Edison--were very helpful.

The Museum Planning Committee

Continued on page 7.

COUNTY GREEK REVIVAL HOMES TO BE FEATURED IN JANUARY 19 PROGRAM

Slides of a lot of Washtenaw's oldest homes will be featured in the January WCHS program by Mary McAllister Culver on "The Greek Revival: The Translation of a Classical Ideal."

The program will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 19, in the basement meeting room of the Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor.

Ms. Culver, a WCHS board member, is a native of Ann Arbor and a University of Michigan graduate. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in historic preservation at Eastern Michigan University.

She has a special interest in the preservation of Greek Revival architecture and has sought out examples throughout the county.

Her other activities include work with Cobblestone Farm, Kempf House and two years as administrative intern for the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission.

READERS COLLECT 30% OF POINTS FOR VCR

Readers have now turned in a total of 5,031 points or thirty percent of the 16,509 points needed to earn a videocassette recorder for WCHS by collecting points when they eat at Knapp's Restaurants.

Anyone who eats at any Knapp's Restaurant can get a yellow points slip from the cashier each time with one point for each dollar spent.

Please keep collecting points and give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Information: 663-8826.

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand-lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826.

IN ANN ARBOR:

PUBLIC LIBRARY EVOLVED FROM PRIVATE, PUBLIC STRANDS

Ann Arbor has always liked reading--the first lending library was started in 1827, only three years after the town was founded and years before the University of Michigan started in Ann Arbor, Grace Shackman told the November WCHS audience.

Ms. Shackman and Ramon Hernandez, director of the Ann Arbor Public Library, discussed "The Ann Arbor Public Library: From the Wilderness Frontier to the Space Frontier."

In connection with the dedication October 27 of the newly enlarged and renovated library, Hernandez chaired a research committee on the history of the library.

Ms. Shackman is author of a soon to be published history based on that research, as well as an abridged edition given out at the dedication and the WCHS program.

"When Ray first talked to me about doing this project, the idea was to trace the history of the public library but we found out putting a date on when the public library started was a little harder than first thought.

"I find it ironic that, while friends of mine think its sort of silly that I'm interested in history and say 'I hated history in school--it's just memorizing a bunch of dates,' that when you come to local history often its hard even to find a date.

"Some of these things just evolved--that's the case with the library. It looks like our public library evolved from two strands--the lending library which was a subscription library, and school libraries which evolved into letting the general public borrow books.

The first strand starts in 1827--it was a lending library and had a group of books that they loaned each other.

"The old newspapers that the research committee found show a number of different lending libraries. They didn't all last a long time but there seemed to be always one popping up and they always had a membership fee of two or three dollars a year.

"In 1843 the public strand started with a state law that every township had to have a school library. The state law said they had to spend $25 a year on books for the township library to be shared between the different one-room schools in the township.

Courtesy of Susan Wineberg

Rare postcard view of Ann Arbor's former Carnegie Library on East Huron, east of State Street. It was built in 1906-07 along with and connected to Ann Arbor High School, now U-M Frieze Building.

"What is often cited as the beginning date of our public library is 1856. That is when the first high school was built in Ann Arbor called the Union School, where the University of Michigan Frieze Building is now (southeast corner of State and Huron Streets).

"They put a collection of books from the township library in the superintendent's office.

"That is one strand. The other continues with the Ladies Library Association, started ten years later in 1866. They said they were started because there wasn't a public library, even though a lot of source materials say the public library started in 1856.

"If it did, no one knew about it. Local people didn't borrow books from it.

"The ladies started this library, based on a subscription library, an idea they trace back to when Benjamin Franklin started a subscription library in Philadelphia.

"It was the same idea. You paid $3 a year and they collected books. Men could pay $3 and borrow books but they couldn't have anything to do with management of it.

"Dr. (Russell) Bidlack (who was in the audience) in his paper shows that a lot of them were woman suffragettes and women ahead of their time. They also seem like a very earnest bunch of people. They weren't just collecting best sellers to loan to each other. They were really trying to improve the moral climate of the community.

"It seemed like at every one of their meetings someone would read a poem, somebody gave a book review. Later on they would do a systematic study of all composers--they would have a program on Hayden and would play his music and talk about him. They also had art exhibits.

"For fund raisers they usually did some sort of production that was elevating. They would have a tableau of Longfellow's 'Evangeline'--I guess they would do different scenes from the poem, or they had farces or pantomimes, but it is all for the betterment of the community even when they did fun things.

"They did one where they dressed up in costumes of one hundred years before and they had a Japanese night where they must have dressed up in Japanese costumes.

"They had a regular program of speakers like Dr. Angell (U-M president) when he came back from China. He negotiated a treaty there and they had him talk on his experiences there.

"These meetings were held in Angell's home or in homes of other prominent people.

"The Ladies Library Association was more than just a lending library--it was a whole cultural thing that a whole bunch of people were involved in.

"The library moved to several different locations but by the 1880s they were large enough that they wanted their own place. They bought land where the telephone company is now at 324 East Huron and hired an architect.

"The architect was Irving Pond. Susan Wineberg found me a paper from Bentley Library that a student wrote in the '30s about him. His mother was one of the founders of the Ladies Library Association and his father was editor of the *Michigan Argus* and supportive of LLA, so he was a natural choice.

"He designed a very nice building which some of you may remember was demolished in the forties.

"In 1883, the same year as the ladies were building, the high school hired a full time librarian for the first time. That was Nellie Loving and shortly after that the library became a public library as far as we can tell.

"The first reference we could find in newspapers was in 1886- a newspaper had a throw-away reference to buying some new books for the public library so, obviously, it was being used before that.

It also seems that it wasn't much used as a public library because it was only open one hour one day a week. There were even newspaper articles in the '90s saying 'people don't forget there's a public library' and encouraging people to come to it. Probably most of the reading public were still going to the Ladies Library.

"The LLA always thought that their ultimate goal was to someday have a public library. In 1902, quite soon after Carnegie started giving money for public libraries, Anna Botsford Bach, LLA president, suggested that the school and LLA apply to Carnegie to build a public library.

"They got together and wrote this application. It was signed by all the important people in town--the mayor, the president of the University, representatives from the school board and LLA."

After what seemed to them a long wait, Carnegie or his agent replied that they could have the $20,000 requested and they would get half of it as soon as they sent in their plan, an architect's drawing and the site.

"Carnegie was a business man and he thought he would give the capital money to build a building but then, the community had to promise books and upkeep forever.

"The two groups saw that with the money they were both spending on libraries, if they pooled it, it would be more than enough to run a public library.

"But then, here comes the rub. When they got to where they had to turn in their site, they couldn't agree. The LLA assumed the site would be where their building was, that they would give the land on Huron Street even though it was never said in the minutes.

"The school board wanted it part of the school because they didn't want to set up a whole other school library.

"Then there was a sudden meeting where the school board voted to definitely put it in the high school so then the LLA pulled out of the arrangement.

"I read it as a sort of battle of the sexes. They had land, they had books and they thought they were going to have some sort of say in the new Carnegie Library. It had even been their idea and the male school board said no, we're going to do it where we want.

"We're going to take your books and money from your land and we're going to do the library like we want it.

"The newspaper, which was very sympathetic up to then, had the headline, "Ladies Play Indian," insulting both ladies and Native Americans.

"Shortly after that the high school burned down so the issue had to be faced again.

"The fire was in the middle of the last night of 1904. Ann Arbor was then the kind of small town where everybody gets up if there's a fire and runs to see it. It sounds like the whole town went down to the school which was also the library.

"Some of the teachers organized kids who showed up into brigades and they went in and saved most of the library books. The fire started on the south side, and by then the library had been moved out of the superintendent's office and was in a room in a new addition on the north end.

"They saved the books, then 8,000 in number, and they would store them across the street in the Methodist Church for a while. They also saved some lab equipment.

"Then the question of a library came up again. The school board applied again, for $30,000, and Carnegie wrote back, offering the same terms.

"There is a newspaper article where they say we're asking the public to rebuild the school so we obviously can't ask them for money for a new library so we'll just have to build it right next to the school.

"So that's why the Carnegie Library was built (facing Huron Street) right behind the school, the present Frieze Building. Living in Ann Arbor in later years, I always thought it was part of the Frieze Building.

"But, when you look carefully, you can see it is a different building although connected. The library sticks out a little more, it's made of different material. The library was paid for with Carnegie money, the high school with

NELLIE LOVING FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARIAN IN ANN ARBOR IN 1883

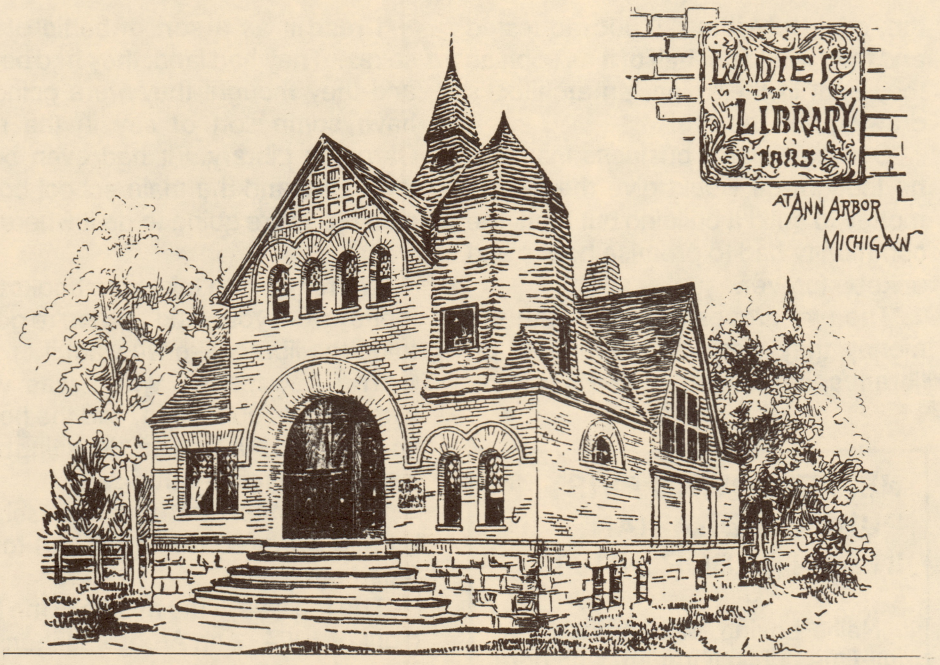
Nellie Loving, Ann Arbor's first full-time public librarian, was born in September 1860 in Nelson County, Virginia, in the western part of the state, Don Callard, reference librarian, said.

The Loving family seemed to have been the pre-eminent family in the county. The county seat is Lovington.

Miss Loving went to school in New England. Then she and her mother and sister came to Ann Arbor in 1879. She was hired as a full-time librarian in 1883 and continued for 39 years.

She lived on North Ingalls Street near the library and her church, the Methodist. She retired in 1922 and died in 1944 in obscurity.

In Forest Hill Cemetery, stones can be seen for Nellie and her mother and father, although Callard doubts that her father, who died back in Virginia, was actually transported here.



Courtesy of Alice Sunderland Wethey

Architect Irving Pond's drawing of former Ann Arbor Ladies Library Association library built in 1885 on East Huron between Fifth Avenue and Division Streets. It was torn down in 1945 to make way for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company building.

bonds. They had the same architect and construction crew and were built at the same time.

"It is believed to be the only Carnegie Library connected to a high school. Susan Wineberg has a very nice post card that shows it when first built.

"Nellie Loving was still the librarian and she had this mission to get everybody to read books.

In her 1902 report to the Board of Education she wrote, "Last fall, with the consent of the library committee, we offered to the men engaged in service at Firemen's Hall the free use of the library to which they are entitled but do not seem to realize the fact.

"I personally saw three or four of the men and later, the chief, to whom I stated our plan to let them have a liberal number of books, which they might select to keep at the building for a week or two at a time; asking only that they call for and return the books and shelve them in a clean place and give them reasonable careful handling.

"The men seemed to appreciate the interest and suggestion, but they have not called for any books, I regret to be obliged to report. If they desire them only a fraction as much as I long for them to have them we would be sending books to them every week."

Elizabeth Slack, one of the founders of the Friends of the Library knew Loving and remembered a slightly different version. As she told it, "She (Loving) even went to see the firemen at the station. They were just sitting around.

"Why don't you read something? she asked.

"When they replied they had no books, Miss Loving said she'd bring them some and she did.

"When the books were due one of the men brought them back to the library. 'If you don't mind we'd like something livelier,' he said. She replied, 'I don't care what you read, but read!'"

"Miss Loving did innovative things like starting the children's library on the first floor of the Carnegie Library and teaching classes to high school kids on how to use a library. She also set up the first branches.

"In 1910 she set up a branch downtown so that shoppers and business men could stop in. She started a branch at Donovan School on Wall Street on the north side so that more disadvantaged kids could have the library.

"She retired in 1922 and died in 1944. The sad thing was in what obscurity she died. The library research committee couldn't find any newspaper references when she died. Finally a legal notice was found that said she was mentally incompetent.

"She had lived with her mother and sister and both must have been dead by then. She was a patient in the Arnold Home in Detroit and died unnoticed. I'm glad that now we have the Loving Branch and we're at least recognizing her again.

"Miss Loving was replaced by Sam McAllister (father of WCHS director Mary Culver). There's a very nice piece in the archives written by Louis Doll who worked under McAllister.

"He talks about how he was given the job of going out to collect overdue fines and books that hadn't been returned. Not having much luck at it he threw himself at the feet of Mr. McAllister and said 'please, please transfer me back inside.'

"After him in 1928 came another woman in the Nellie Loving mold, Frances Hannum who seems also to have been a fiery woman who tried to spread reading wherever she could.

"She worked hard at trying to get a countywide library system which even today we don't have. I think it would have been nicer if she had succeeded but because of various political things it didn't work.

"As soon as she got the job she was writing reports saying she thought it was ridiculous for the school library and public library to be in one location, something that the LLA would have agreed with wholeheartedly.

"She did succeed in getting the school library moved one floor up so the high school library was separated but still in the same building.

"During the depression there was not a lot of hope of getting a new library and then came World War II, and people were thinking of other things.

"The community had wanted a better library and right after the war they started again addressing this problem. Cecil McHale, a professor of political science, was one who worked very hard to get a new public library started.

"There was a reunion of retired library personnel about a month ago, before the grand opening, to which I was invited.

"Homer Chance, the librarian who came after Miss Hannum, told how Cecil McHale was in fact giving a speech saying that there should be a new public library when he got a fatal heart attack.

"The Frieze Building was sold to the University in 1953 and the high school, now Pioneer High, moved out on Stadium Boulevard. It was obvious that the public library also had to move.

"The community debated where it should go. Some wanted it with the high school, some where Baker Commons is (South Main at Packard), then a parking lot, some at West Park.

"The school board had bought the present property but it hadn't been decided for sure that this should be where the library was. It was the site of the old Beal family mansion. Junius Beal was a newspaper editor and long time U-M regent.

"After a lot of debate and discussion--I think you find Ann Arbor things always take a lot of debate and discussion--the present site (423 South Fifth Avenue) was chosen. Alden Dow was hired as architect. He had done another library somewhere, similar to this as well as public buildings including Ann Arbor City Hall and the U-M Administration Building.

The new library was dedicated October 13, 1957. The second addition was dedicated in 1974. To people who work in the library, 1973, is an important date. That is when library funding was separated from the public schools funding, although the library is still part of the public schools.

The Loving Branch was established in 1965 on the east side, the West Branch in 1971 and North Branch in 1981.

Frances Hannum retired in 1951. Homer Chance who had been her assistant for five years, then took over. In 1977 Homer Chance retired and the then reference librarian, Gene Wilson, took over. Wilson retired in 1983.

Since then the director has been Ramon Hernandez under whose leadership the present addition has been built and computerization increased.

In preparing for the recent dedication of the newly enlarged library, October 27, Hernandez said they discovered the original Fifth Avenue building, called the Dow Building, was dedicated in October 1957 and the second, Van Curler addition in October 1974 and this Osler-Milling addition in October 1991.

"One of my staff was even more astute when they discovered it was not only October but exactly 17 years apart each time."

The WCHS photographer caught (left to right) unidentified and Roberta Keniston with November speakers Grace Shackman and Ramon Hernandez, director of the Ann Arbor Public Library. Mrs. Keniston, a retired library director, died suddenly December 21.

"In public libraries, there has always been the statement that in hard times public libraries get busier because people don't have the wherewithal to buy books. They come to the library for information that they might have bought or subscribed to normally.

"I had a member of the committee compare circulation or number of check-outs from just before 1929 to the mid-30s. We had an increase from 1929 to 1933 of almost one hundred percent activity which seems to bear this out. There wasn't anything else quite that remarkable at other times.

"The bookmobile began in 1956. It was the first non-main library activity," Hernandez noted.

"The bookmobile lasted until the mid-60s, the next one to the mid-70s and the one we got in 1974 lasted, barely, until now. It is ready for library bookmobile heaven.

"Bookmobiles have to be heavy, sturdy things. We used to joke about that. It got two miles to the gallon in town but its mileage increases fifty percent out on the highway to four miles per gallon.

"The new bookmobile is compliments of the Buhr Foundation. You will see it on the road shortly. It is a more sophisticated vehicle, and necessitates an upgrading of all our drivers. They have to get acquainted with air brakes and heavier poundage before they are licensed to handle the new vehicle.

The library history project was made possible by a grant from the Friends of the Library, he concluded.

WCHS LOOKS FORWARD TO OPENING. . .

Continued from page 1.

bership envelopes with a total of $5,765 in dues. I would like to take this opportunity to tell our members a bit about how their membership monies are spent.

Each 8-page *Impressions* costs approximately 75 cents to produce and mail which equals $6.00 yearly. Over one hundred complimentary copies are also sent to sister historical organizations, schools, libraries, and newspapers. The yearly storage fee for our collection is over $3,200 and rising. Insurance comes to approximately $800 yearly, and utilities and other expenses come to about $1,000 yearly.

Because, prior to 1990, we had only our organizational expenses to consider the Society was able to function with the monies received for memberships. Now that Museum on Main Street is a part of our future I feel that members should be aware that membership fees cover just that — the cost of operating our Society.

Over the past years funds have been donated specifically for a museum. These were kept in a special museum account which accumulated to a significant sum. Combined with newly raised funds, these monies made possible the move of the house from 1015 Wall Street to its new home at 500 North Main Street at the corner of

Continued on page 8.

REMNANTS OF BURNS PARK LOG CABIN PRESERVE PIONEER NAMES

Old timers may recall that there once was a log cabin in Ann Arbor's Burns Park.

At one time or another ice skaters warmed themselves in it, wading pool users changed their clothes in it, Seventh Ward residents voted there and Civic Theater stage crews made and stored scenery in it.

If the users looked up they may have wondered at the many names and 19th century dates neatly incised on interior logs.

But by the mid-fifties the cabin had deteriorated, termites were having their way and the city was ready to tear it down. No one seemed to know who had built it or when although it was assumed the Washtenaw County Historical Society had in 1898 or 1848.

After an unsuccessful attempt by WCHS to move and preserve it, it was razed in the spring of 1956.

All was not lost however. The names were of Washtenaw County pioneers. The dates were the years they came to settle here. Parts of those logs with the names and dates have been preserved, thanks to the city storing them all these years.

To save space, the city sawed planks containing the names and dates from the original logs.

One day last fall, Esther Warzynski and the editor met Gary Fichter, manager of park operations for the City of Ann Arbor, at the storage place and, with his help in moving them, transcribed all 196 names.

From the evidence we found there and in the *Chapman History of Washtenaw County* (pages 536-541) and WCHS secretary's minutes, the editor believes it was built in 1898 by the Washtenaw County fair society.

One long plank says "Erected in honor of Washtenaw Pioneers--1898." WCHS minutes of June 8, 1898, say "The committee reported 'they had selected the Fair Grounds at Ann Arbor (Burns Park) for the next meeting, when *the log cabin to be built there this year* could be dedicated and occupied for the annual meeting.'"

There is nothing in the Washtenaw Pioneer Society minutes to suggest the Pioneer Society was building the cabin. Rather it seems likely it was the Washtenaw County Agricultural and Horticultural Society which sponsored and promoted an annual fair that built the cabin to attract more old timers to the fair.

By 1880, the agricultural society already owned "22.5 acres of ground within the city limits of Ann Arbor, on which there is a floral hall, grand stand, agricultural hall, secretary and treasurer's office, barns, stalls, sheds, and other conveniences. There is also a good half-mile track," according to Chapman.

A broken short board from the cabin says "officers, 1848." Chapman says, "The present Agricultural Society was formed in 1848. Its first president was Hon. William Finley. Professor Agnew was its first secretary...The first fair was held in 1848, in the house and yard now occupied by the Catholic School of Ann Arbor (St. Thomas).

Officers listed are Finley, president; J.H. Agnew, secretary; James Kingsley, treasurer; and vice-presidents Horace Welch, John Van Cleve, Luther Boyden, and William Burnett.

A separate cut-off board names as "directors" Henry Warner, Thomas Godfrey, F.G. Finley, Munnis Kenny, Selah Collins, Asa Williams, S. Spafford, Coon (sic) Redman, J.D. Baldwin, and Solomon Haight.

Presumably the above names are Agricultural Society directors. There is no record of a call to organize a historical society until late 1857. Munnis Kenny, above named, later was elected first president of the historical society.

That first historical society languished during the Civil War and was re-organized as the Washtenaw County Pioneer Society in 1873 when the nation was looking forward to its centennial.

An alphabetical list of the pioneers whose names were carved in the logs follows. Presumably it includes those in or known to Pioneer Society members at the time the names were inscribed. It is not a complete list of all early settlers.

Roll of Pioneers Whose Names Were Inscribed on Logs in Former Burns Park (Fairgrounds) Cabin:

Allen, Lewis, Sharon, 1832
Allmendinger, John G., Ann Arbor, 1832
Babbitt, John W., M.D., Ypsilanti, 1848
Babbitt, J. Willard & Florence S., 1848, 1852
Bach, Philip, Ann Arbor, 1835
Baldwin, Joseph Dorr, Ann Arbor, 1847
Ball, Amos & Polly, Webster, 1838
Ball, Harris, Webster, 1838
Ballard, Mr. & Mrs. S. & P., Ypsilanti, 1846
Beal, Rice Aner, Lima, 1833
Bird, David Davis, Ann Arbor, 1836
Bird, John C., Ann Arbor, 1833
Birkett, Thomas, Dexter, 1852
Bissinger, Conrad, Scio, 1830
Booth, Horace, Lodi, 1826
Bower, Henry, Ann Arbor, 1838
Boyden, Edward & Frances, Webster, 1831, 1835
Botsford, Mr. & Mrs. Elnathan, Ann Arbor, 1825
Botsford, Smith, Ann Arbor, 1827
Braun, John, Ann Arbor, 1836
Brown, Daniel B., Ann Arbor, 1826
Burnett, Asa & Belinda, Ann Arbor, 1830

Chapin, Charles A., Ann Arbor, 1833
Chapin, Norman, Ann Arbor, 1847
Cheever, William, Ann Arbor, 1857
Cody, David, Pittsfield, 1833
Conklin, Isaac N., Ypsilanti, 1844
Cook, Solon & Anna, Cook's Tavern, Ann Arbor, 1830
Covert, B.S., Ypsilanti, 1834
Crittenden, Allen, Pittsfield, 1831
Cross, Daniel, Ypsilanti, 1822*

Dean, William W., Green Oak, 1836**
DeForest, H.G., Ann Arbor, 1855
Dell, William H., Saline, 1845
Dexter, Judge Samuel & Millicent Bond, 1824
Duffy, M. & P., Webster, 1849

Enos, S. & H., Ypsilanti, 1835

Felch, Alpheus, Ann Arbor, 1843
Feldkamp, Lambert, Freedom, 1836
Ferrier, William & Philo, Ypsilanti, 1838
Fiegel, John, Freedom, 1836
Fletcher, Mr. & Mrs. Addison, Ypsilanti, 1850
Fritz, Anna B., Scio, 1831

*According to *Washtenaw County History*, 1881, this should be 1823.
**Green Oak is now in Livingston County.

Listing of names to be continued in February ***Impressions***.

FIEGEL'S CLOTHING FIRM 100 YEARS OLD

President Pauline Walters has presented a WCHS certificate to Fiegel's Men's & Boy's Wear of 318 South Main Street, Ann Arbor, in recognition of the firm's one hundred years of doing business on Main Street.

It was founded in October 1891 as Reule, Conlin & Fiegel. Albert Fiegel was associated with the business until his retirement in 1943. At that time, Herbert Sager, who started with the firm in 1926, took over. He still looks in on his sons, David and Douglas, who run the business today.

Incidentally, Albert Fiegel was a member of an Ann Arbor Guitar Club in the 1890s. In 1988 his daughter, Frieda, Mrs. Jules Eder of Grand Rapids, gave his guitar to WCHS.

GSWC TOPIC AFRICAN-AMERICAN ROOTS

DeWitt S. Dykes, Jr., organizer and charter member of the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society, Detroit, will talk on "Researching African-Americans Before & After 1870," at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, January 26, at Washtenaw Community College.

It will be in Lecture Hall II, Liberal Arts & Science Building. Sadie Gar-

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ROOTS

(Continued)

ner, an Ypsilanti High School teacher and genealogist, will lead a class following on "Searching My Roots."

WCHS'S KERRYTOWN GIFT SHOP GROSSES $521

During three weekends in December, a temporary WCHS gift shop in space donated by Kerrytown, grossed $521, Bets Hansen, chairman, reported.

Twenty-three volunteers staffed the shop and answered questions about "that house you moved." Several others loaned or donated props to decorate the space and others helped dismantle the shop.

Dried flowermobiles, made and donated by Elizabeth Dusseau, were best sellers, gaining $303 for the museum building fund.

Besides WCHS's T-shirts, note cards, postcards, and other items, several sister historical organizations were also invited to display their goods.

See "Thanks" article (page 8) for volunteer staff. Thanks are also due Anne Benninghoff, Elizabeth Dusseau, Karen O'Neal, and Judith Tomer for loan or donation of props to decorate the shop.

Patty Creal, Ina Hanel-Gerdenich and Ina's sister and brother-in-law helped dismantle the shop. Russell Ferguson loaned them a pick-up truck.

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS INVOLVE:

BILL OF RIGHTS, QUILTING, GENEALOGY

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Depot, North Main at railroad tracks.

Dexter Society: Museum, 3443 Inverness, closed except by appointment. Call 426-2519. Society meets 8 p.m. first Thursday at museum. Annual meeting in January.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday at Pittsfield Township Hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday in former Salem Congregational Church. Tom and Nancy Johnson will report on their recent trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, and the bicentennial celebration of the Bill of Rights.

Saline Society: 7 p.m. third Wednesday at the Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road.

Ypsilanti Society: Laurajean Keene is to teach quilting from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays at the museum, 220 North Huron, beginning January 14 and continuing for six weeks. Fee is $5 per lesson.

Carolyn Griffin, Ypsilanti High School teacher and genealogist, will speak on "Beginning Genealogy" at the historical society meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 19, at the museum. Refreshments will be served. Information, mornings: 482-4990.

MANY GOOD FRIENDS . . .

Continued from page 1.

has spent many hours making plans and researching other museums and their practices. Key to our operations have been those involved in fund raising, accounting, and of course, our donors.

The list goes on. We try to mention those who have donated goods and services in this publication on an ongoing basis. (See current list page 8.) This here is by no means a complete listing.

My purpose here is to try to convey to you the numbers of different people, both within and outside the Society, who have been involved in this project.

Society members helped out with Art Fair parking, resulting in significant money raised for the cause. We are indebted to Gary Cooper at Quinn-Evans for their architectural services, and to Peter Pollack for landscape plans.

On weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas I hope you had a chance to drop by the WCHS shop in Kerrytown. Bets Hansen respondedin an outstanding manner to our plea for someone to manage our gift shop. She set up and staffed this "preview" at Kerrytown before Christmas.

Did you see our tree at Englander's, decorated again this year by PatJackunas and Pat Johnston! It raised a significant amount of money for our Museum.

Joe Benkert, our carpenter, and his helpers are working to repair the roof structure. Behnke Construction will install the cedar shingle roof.

I am grateful to everyone who has had a small or large part in bringing about the **Museum on Main Street**. We are not finished yet, by any means. We will need more money, more free services, more volunteers, more energy.

However, we have accomplished a lot since July of 1989 when the first phone call came, from Thelma Graves, alerting us to the possible availability of one of Ann Arbor's earliest structures. That phone call set all this in motion!

Karen O'Neal

WCHS LOOKS FORWARD . . .

Continued from page 5.

Beakes.

Now we operate on two budgets: one for general activities of the Society and another which is used solely to restore and operate the **Museum on Main Street, A Museum of County Life**. Very little, if any, of the monies from dues are left over to help out the museum budget.

I wanted to write about these economic truths so that our supporters in the restoration of **Museum on Main Street** will be aware that our fundraising efforts -- mailings, personal contacts, and the soon-to-be scheduled fundraising get-togethers -- are above and beyond the membership operation.

We appreciate and value each and every member and we hope when you receive future **Museum on Main Street** Fund Drive communications you will understand that Museum expenses are not covered by membership dues.

Pauline V. Walters
662-9092

DONATION INFORMATION

Donations to Museum Fund, always gratefully accepted, should be sent to:

NBD ANN ARBOR
Attention: Gene Fowler
P.O. Box 8601, 125 S. Main Street.
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8601

Information: Pauline Walters
662-9092

THANKS, WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU

Since it has been two months since our last IMPRESSIONS, we have a wonderful long list of persons to thank:

- The Woman's National Farm & Garden Association for the monies to pay for the landscaping of the Museum site at 500 North Main Street;
- Margolis Nursery for supplying the top soil and planting the bushes and trees on the Museum site;
- The Ann Arbor Convention & Visitors Bureau for the lovely white flowering crabapple tree which they planted by the kitchen doors of MoMS in recognition of their outgoing Board Members;
- Fraleigh's Landscape Nursery for donating that tree and planting it;
- The Dean Fund for contributing six trees, which will be planted this month in the extension between the pavement and the sidewalks — three on Main Street and three on Beakes Street;
- Robertson/Morrison for donating the temporary heating unit at MoMS and for their pledge to defray the costs of the permanent climate control unit;
- Deborah deLorenzo for donating space in Kerrytown during the past two holiday seasons for the MoMS Museum Shop where we sold note cards, post cards, T-shirts, and other goods;
- a very special thank you to Bets (Olive) Hansen who has volunteered to manage the MoMS Museum Shop and took over the scheduling and operation of the Museum's Shop in Kerrytown and her many volunteers.

Rosemarian Blake	Nancy McKinney
Barbara Copi	Barbara Mueller
Reeva Cranor	Karen O'Neal
Elizabeth Dusseau	Louisa Pieper
Liz Elling	Maya Savarino
Lois Foyle	Eleanor Shaw
Thelma Graves	Pam Tabbaa
Ella Grenier	Dalys Vogel
Bets Hansen	Pauline Walters
Marguerite Harms	Marilou Warner
Hilda Kurtz	Esther Warzynski
Robert Lytle, Jr.	

- contributors to the MoMS Building Fund by voting for our tree at Englanders holiday Christmas Tree Contest. We received $6,123.00 in votes. Thanks to all who voted.
- to Englanders Store for the opportunity to take part in the community nonprofit groups Christmas Tree Contest.
- to Pat Johnston and Pat Jackunas for designing and making the porcelain 1992 heart and star-shaped ornaments which decorated the tree.
- Karen O'Neal, Patty Creal, Barbara Mueller, Marty Evashevski and Pauline Walters for decorating the tree.

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Published September-May, except December.
WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2 P.M. Sunday
January 19, 1992

Ann Arbor
Public Library

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Ann Arbor, Michigan

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